



# Town of Simsbury

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## Report of Meeting

### Town of Simsbury Clean Energy Task Force

September 23, 2020

6:30 pm – Zoom Meeting

#### Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 6:48 pm. Mark welcomed Phil Purciello as new member of the CETF. Phil said that he would like to chip away climate issues as a CETF member.

#### Roll Call - Quorum:

Present were: Cheri Calnan, Mark Scully, Phil Purciello, Bob Beinstein and Mike Tanca.

Absent was Tim Walczak

#### 1) Public Audience:

Susan Olson, Kate Maggiore, Ray Harris,

#### 2) Approval of Meeting Minutes from August 17, 2020

Mark made a motion to accept the minutes, as amended. The motion was seconded by Cheri and was passed by a voice vote.

#### 3) Update on Sustainable CT

Cheri stated that Jess LeClair of Sustainable CT spoke at our September meeting to discuss upcoming possible change to the 2021 program. Jess asked for our feedback on the changes and how it affects Simsbury. Our team now has a better idea of what to work on in the next certification.

Cheri, Mark and Tom Roy gave an earlier presentation to the BOS on Sustainable CT. The presentation was well received by the BOS.

#### 4) Discussion of Topics Raised at July Public Audience

##### a) Endorsement of Carbon Fee & Dividend Legislation

Mark said that at our previous meeting, Susan Olson and the members of Citizens Climate Lobby gave a good presentation on climate change and their ongoing work. We do not put a value on products affecting the environment so that is not the true product cost. Carbon dividends would pay for climate cleanup. Phil said that commerce should pay an excise tax for bad behavior.

Mark said that the legislation is worthwhile but it is not in our CETF goals to work with State and Federal governments to enact legislation. Our responsibility is to the Board of Selectmen and we should make recommendations to the BOS. He recommended that CETF and CETF give a presentation to the BOS at a future date. All CETF members agreed.

**b) Declaration of Climate Emergency**

Mark said that Middletown has already passed a Declaration of Climate Emergency. This item is within the CETF charter is should be further discussed in future meetings. This items could be brought before the BOS after further review.

Cheri asked if this information could be sent to Tom Roy as this may impact his Public Works agenda.

Mark suggested that we table this issue for now and continue future discussions. The group agreed

**5) Residential Efficiency Campaign**

Mark said that home audits had gone down from \$75 to zero due to Covid. Cheri and Mark had previously attended a webinar on this issue. Mark said that the insulation savings were phenomenal and incentives were good through the end of this year. The value to home owners were up to \$700.

Mark stated that North Haven selected two installers to work with in conjunction with a United Illuminating partner, with success. Eversource seemed more reluctant and has shut down their energy efficiency program.

Cheri suggested that we develop a Zoom presentation for SCTV in October. We can splice in portions of the webinar to the SCTV program. She also suggested that we further discuss this campaign with Tammy Wilson of Eversource.

**6) Recommendation of Town Energy Manager Consultant**

Mark would recommend that Simsbury consider a town energy manager consultant. West Hartford uses Catherine Diviney, part time and has recouped her salary with cost savings. Mark said that Tom Roy backs this, since Tom presently performs this function and it would take some work off his plate. We could get the job description from West Hartford. The CETF could recommend this in December, if the concept goes forward.

**7) Outreach for Town Energy Plan: PTOs**

We need to update our energy plan for 2021. Our present plan from 2020 is a one year and a five year plan that was approved by CETF but not yet approved by the BOS. Should we engage the PTOs? Mark will send a copy of our latest energy plan to all CETF members.

**8) Other Business**

Mark spoke on the work done on the electric bus possibility, under the VW settlement. Slow moving so far as the town has already begun a propane conversion of busses that are well underway.

LiveGreen is giving a weekly presentation on Thursdays for 1 hour. Attendees need to preregister.

**9) Open Forum**

Susan Olson said that their Climate Emergency Tool Kit is available as well as a 35 page document. All are available online to the CETF. Cheri proposed that Phil spearhead this Climate Emergency project. Phil would like to work on the issue, based on his availability.

Next Meeting Date

The next meeting is October 19, 2020

**10) Adjournment**

A motion was made by Cheri and was seconded by Bob to end this meeting. The motion was passed by a voice vote. The meeting ended at 7:37 pm.

Respectfully,

Mike Tanca